



DESERT EVIL DISPATCH

Vol. 2, No. 6

Serving the men and women of Regional Command East, Operation Enduring Freedom - Afghanistan

Sept. 18, 2005

1-508 cleans up during OP Orgun Sweep Three

By **Spc. Laura E. Griffin**
Assistant Editor

FORWARD OPERATING BASE ANED, Afghanistan - As part of the continuing effort to ensure peaceful and secure elections, Afghan National Army Soldiers from Company 3, 24th Kandak, with support from Company A, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 508th Infantry Soldiers, and local Afghan National Police, cordoned off and searched the bazaar in Orgun, Afghanistan Sept. 7 as part of Operation Orgun Sweep III.

The goal of the operation was to find and confiscate any contraband items, such as equipment used to make improvised explosive devices, to take into custody vendors selling the items, and to deter any anti-coalition cells from taking hold in the bazaar.

Some of the items found during the search were long-range cordless telephones modified to be used as IEDs, a Therya telephone with a number known to be used to contact enemy forces, car batteries with wires to be used as IEDs, an M-16 magazine with about 15 rounds in it, one small artillery round, and several AK47s.

"The message sent to ACMs is clear: the Orgun bazaar is not a safe haven," said Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Holland, A Co. 3rd Platoon Sergeant. "This is a coordi-



Spc. Laura E. Griffin

Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Holland, 3rd Platoon Sergeant, Company A, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 508th Infantry Regiment, looks over equipment that could be used to make improvised explosive devices. The equipment was confiscated during a complete sweep of the Orgun bazaar Sept. 7.

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Sept. 18, 2005

Devil 6 message on Afghan elections

Col. Patrick J. Donahue II

Combined Task Force Devil Commander

When Patrick Henry said, "Give me liberty or give me death," he meant he was willing to die for the pursuit of independence and self governance. I believe Afghans will fight from the democracy just as our forefathers did.

The Afghan people have made great sacrifices for liberty. Afghan National Army Soldiers, Afghan National Police Officers and concerned citizens have sacrificed for their country because

they have everything the mujihadeen fought the Soviets so hard to attain: An Islamic Republic, a popular elected president and on Sept. 18, their first elected parliament. Candidates have been killed and voters have been threaten, but their resolve is strong, and candidates are still campaigning and Afghans are excited to vote. The elections will succeed because the Afghan people will not be deterred.

The Afghan National Army trains

"The brave Afghan men and women who have registered to vote are sending a clear message to the world that they want to have a part in their country's future...We, soldiers in CTF Devil should be proud of our part of this country's first steps toward democracy and progress"

-Col. Patrick J. Donahue II
Commander
Combined Task Force Devil

everyday so that in the future they will be able to protect their own country without our help. They have made significant progress since 2002 and will soon take more of the lead role in combat operations with CTF Devil and the rest of the Coalition in support.

The Afghan National Police are the protector of good governance and security in cities and towns with our help, support and encouragement. They are continuously improving and are capturing enemy fighters and criminals so their countrymen can live their lives in a stable society.

The brave Afghan men and women who are voting are sending a clear message to the world that they have invested and believe in their country's future. The people of Afghanistan will be able to shape their country by electing representatives responsible to their needs and requirements in the democratic National Assembly Parliamentary Council Elections- a first for this country .

There are approximately six-thou-



Col. Patrick J. Donahue II
Commander, CTF Devil

sand candidates running for national and local parliamentary council seats in this election, 600 of which are women seeking an elected position in their government. Three years ago this election would have been unthinkable. The country is excited and is on its way to a better future.

We, soldiers in CTF Devil should be proud of our part of this country's first steps toward democracy and progress. However, these are only the first steps in a very long journey. We must continue to help the Afghans help themselves achieve their goals in this journey. I am confident the Afghans will succeed, especially with the paratroopers, Marines, Soldiers, Airmen and Sailors of CTF Devil helping every step of the way.

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Falcons fight back against ambush

By Spc. Mike Pryor

Task Force Red Falcon PAO

LOGAR, AFGHANISTAN - The ambush had just begun when Lt. Robert Williams saw a flash and felt the impact of a Rocket Propelled Grenade hit the armor plating on the turret of his vehicle. The next thing he heard was the body of his turret gunner, Spc. John Marenda, dropping into the vehicle. For a moment, Williams was afraid to look behind him.

"I was sure he was decapitated," Williams said.

But Marenda still had his head. What he didn't have any longer was his M249 Squad Automatic Weapon, which had been knocked off its mount by the blast. So Marenda improvised.

He shouted "I need a weapon," grabbed Williams' M4 carbine, and jumped back up in the turret to return fire.

"As a platoon leader, you can't ask for a better reaction than that from a Soldier," said Williams.

Reactions like Marenda's turned what could have been a disastrous attack into a victory when a platoon of 82nd Airborne Division Paratroopers beat back a Taliban ambush attempt in the Puli Alam District of eastern Afghanistan Aug. 28, killing one attacker, wounding two, and capturing another.

The ambush was the fourth attack on Williams' platoon - a part of B Company, 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment - since it took over security for Logar province in early August.

It began as the platoon was conducting a routine night patrol in Puli Alam. The convoy was rolling past a small open area of gardens and trees when approximately eight attackers opened fire with small arms and RPGs.

The previous three attacks had been hit and run. The attackers decided to stay and fight it out this time, giving the paratroopers a chance to return fire. That made all the difference.

"I don't think they were expecting us to shoot back," said Williams.

They were in for a surprise. Instead of driving through the attack, the paratroopers brought their vehicles to a screeching halt and dismounted, returning fire as soon as they could get their doors open. After the previous ambushes, the paratroopers were eager to find those responsible.

"It was good to be able to throw some rounds back at them finally, although it wasn't with the weapon I would have wanted," said Marenda, who was disappointed he didn't get to fire his SAW.

Staff Sgt. Anthony "Bam" Purnell's vehicle halted just outside of the kill zone. He and Pfc. Eric Denmark jumped out and began blasting away at every attacker they saw. Sgt. Colt Zesch covered them from the turret. Bullets ripped into the vehicle all around them, and one grazed Purnell's right hand. Despite the wound, Purnell used all six of his M203 rounds and then fired his M4 automatic rifle until it jammed. Unable to clear the weapon with his injured hand, he grabbed an M14 rifle from the vehicle and kept shooting.

"They did a great job. If they hadn't exposed themselves (to hostile fire), we wouldn't have been able to get (the enemy)," said Williams.

The firefight lasted between five and ten minutes, until the overwhelmed attackers withdrew. After waiting for a quick reaction force to arrive and secure the area, the paratroopers went out into the field to examine



Spc. Mike Pryor

Spc. John Marenda of Tampa FL, a paratrooper with B Company, 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, shows the damage a Rocket Propelled Grenade caused to the turret of his Humvee. Marenda was in the turret at the time but managed to avoid injury and continue the fight.

the aftermath of the battle. They found one dead enemy fighter and another man with no visible wounds lying still on the ground.

"Ask him if he's alive," the platoon sergeant told an interpreter.

In fact, the man was alive and unhurt. He had been knocked unconscious by one of the explosions. He was brought back to the platoons' compound for questioning.

Since then, the man has already given vital information about the Taliban oper-

tions in Logar, and paratroopers are confident he will continue to provide useful information. In the meantime, they are continuing their patrols.

None of the paratroopers expect the ambushes and attacks to stop altogether, but they're glad the enemy now knows what type of paratroopers they're up against. It may make them hesitate before trying another ambush, said Purnell.

"They'll second think it now. I guarantee that," he said.

Drew Carey visits 2nd Battalion Marines

By Sgt. Robert M. Storm

2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment

JALALABAD, Afghanistan- On Aug. 25, Drew Carey visited the Marines, Soldiers and Sailors from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment in Afghanistan. The comedian traveled from base to base aboard an Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter. While moving he wore body armor and a Kevlar helmet, and dealt with the rugged terrain and cruel heat.

"I love what you guys have done with the place. I hear this all used to be just dirt and rocks now it's just...dirt and rocks," said Carey with a laugh as he first met the Warriors from Task Force KOA at Jalalabad Air Field.

Drew Carey is an actor and comedian famous for his black-rimmed glasses and crew cut. A former United States Marine, he adopted his trademark crew cut during his time in the service. He was accompanied by other well known comedians Jimmy Shubert, Pedro Hernandez, Steve Byrne, and Dave Mordal. The group was touring American military bases in Afghanistan as part of "America Supports You", a nationwide program launched by the Department of Defense during November 2004. Carey continuously drew laughs from the Marines as he kept up a tirade of jokes about the circumstances the Marines lived in.

"You know, there are better things to do if you're bored," said Carey while talking about the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines deployment to Afghanistan and the rough conditions. "Make a note to the weatherman, the climate here is great, 120 degrees with a 30 percent chance of bullets."

Carey managed to visit all the bases occupied by 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines in a



Sgt. Robert M. Storm

Drew Carey, comedian and former Marine, performs for Marines of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment Aug. 25 at Jalalabad.

whirlwind tour lasting an entire day. He spent several hours at each of the bases and had chow with selected Marines during his visit.

"It was great that he took the time and effort to visit with Task Force KOA, the show provided a respite from the doldrums that the Marines and Sailors go through; it was a nice break," said 1st Sgt. Eric J. Harris, Headquarters and Support Company 1st Sgt., from Portland, Oregon.

While at first the Marines appeared nervous to eat with the celebrity, his constant barrage of jokes and talking directly to each Marine and Sailor helped to put them at ease. Carey also talked about his time in the Marine Corps during the meal.

"I was the best damn radio operator in

the Corps, most people don't believe it because of how fat I am now, but I used to run a 300 PFT (referring to a perfect Physical Fitness Test score). I liked being a Marine, but I found out I could make more money as a civilian, thank God, because now I'm a millionaire. Make sure you get this in the article," quipped Carey.

After 'chow' Carey and fellow comedians performed for an hour or more and then signed autographs and took pictures with the Marines.

"It was a good show; the guys that came out were definitely entertaining. I thought they were hilarious," said Lance Cpl. Matthew S. Clark, mortarman, from Rohnert Park, Calif. "It means a lot to us for them to come out here."

MPs give pre-election training

By Sgt. Chuck D. Meseke
Editor

TANI, Afghanistan- "No! Did I say to do anything yet? Did I say to grab his thumb?" yelled Sgt. Manuel Gonzalez, a military police officer with the 212th Military Police Company.

Gonzales and Soldiers from the 82nd Military Police Company were at the Tani District police headquarters teaching a refresher course of basic police techniques they had previously taught to the Afghan National Policemen. It was evident this group needed a refresher course, and the MPs

were prepared for a long day.

"We have been teaching them five critical skills, site security, personal security, handling of a detainee at the point of capture, convoy security operations and civil disturbance operations," said Capt. Carrick E. McCarthy, a Nashville, Tenn., native and platoon leader with the 82nd MPs.

McCarthy and his Soldiers have been traveling to the different districts in the Khost Province training Afghan police officers in the tasks they are expected to face during the



Sgt. Chuck D. Meseke

Sgt. Manuel Gonzalez, 212th Military Police Company, demonstrates to Afghan National Police officers the proper use of force Sept. 3 during training at the Tani District police headquarters.

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No backing down for paratroopers

By Spc. Mike Pryor

Task Force Red Falcon PAO

WARDAK, AFGHANISTAN - The meeting had been dragging on for what seemed like hours. The participants, representatives from the U.S. military, Afghan Security Forces, the United Nations, and the U.S. Agency for

International Development, had been going back and forth about what steps they could take to increase security in Logar Province in the wake of increased enemy attacks.

Then Lt. Col. David Anders, commander of Task Force Red Falcon, stood and addressed the group. He spoke only a few sentences, but the

impact of the words brought a hush to the room.

"We are all reacting to an enemy. I've heard nothing of offensive operations or gathering intelligence, I've heard nothing of getting out and killing the enemy," Anders said. "We will start killing the enemy now."

Anders' decision to focus on aggressive combat operations yielded a major victory this week with the arrests of a high level Taliban operative and several of his lieutenants, effectively crippling an enemy cell that had been operating in the Logar-Wardak region.

The cell was believed to be responsible for a number of recent attacks against coalition forces in the area, including several rocket strikes against a U.S. base, a raid on an Afghan police station, and the ambush of an American convoy, said Capt. Devin Hollingsworth, Task Force intelligence officer.

It was the convoy ambush Aug. 12 that led to the first breakthrough in taking down the cell. During the attack, one of the ambushers was killed in the crossfire between U.S. and enemy forces. His comrades left his body behind as they fled into the night.

Over the next few days, using materials found at the site and information from locals, military intelligence officers were able to determine the man's



Spc. Mike Pryor

Spc. Josh Keatts, a paratrooper with B Co, 1st Bn, 325th AIR, 82nd Abn Div, pulls security from the turret of his Humvee while his company searches a village during a cordon and search operation in Wardak.

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Sgt. Chuck D. Meseke

Teamwork...

A paratrooper from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, watches over Afghan National Army soldiers Sept. 12 during a joint operation in Zormat. The joint operation was conducted to boost pre-election security in the area.

Air Force firemen volunteer

By Spc. Tiffany Evans
20th Public Affairs
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FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO, Afghanistan - Four Air Force firefighters with the 367th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron from Spangdahlem, Air Force Base volunteer three to four days a week in the emergency room at Forward Operating Base Salerno.

In between their regular

duties, they set aside time to spend at the hospital. The hospital staff said they are always grateful for any extra help.

"We do this so that the hospital has an extra set of hands and to help maintain our emergency medical technician proficiency," said Air Force Tech. Sgt. Dion Bullock. "Our volunteer days usually coincide with the days that the hospital treats Afghans."

Everyday the hospital has

a time set aside for service members to come in and be seen, in the military this is known as sick call hours. During the hours of sick call on certain days, the hospital also treats local patients and at times, the hospital staff said it could get very busy.

"It's great to help other service members, but helping to treat the Afghans is a great way to gain their trust and support," said Bullock.

As the Coalition gets ready for elections, they're working overtime to build trust and confidence with the Afghan people they treat at the hospital.

"I feel that our hours spent in the ER are vital to our mission as a whole here," said Airman 1st Class William Kretsch. "By healing the Afghans here we're forming bonds that we can continue to strengthen."

In addition, the word of mouth is how the majority of news spreads in this country. Afghans treated at the hospital go home and tell their village about how the Coalition healed them. The hospital staff said this causes more villagers to come to the hospital to be treated.

"This helps to spread around all the good things that we are doing for the Afghans," said Bullock. "With every patient I treat I can see the positive impact

were making, when they come back for check-ups, they're more talkative and engaging."

Some of the Afghans treated here give the Coalition information to help catch insurgents. They tend to fear the Taliban taking control of the country once again.

"My people are still reeling from the Taliban's rule and the Coalition is doing everything they can to help us," said Nasrullah, a patient being treated for stomach problems. "The people here are scared of the terrorist. They will cooperate and do everything they can to help the Coalition capture those who seek to destroy the good that has been accomplished."

Nasrullah says he is happy to have the Coalition here and feels that they are more than just a force helping to stabilize the country.

"We are glad the Coalition is here, they are our honored guest," Nasrullah said. "They have helped to save our people and continue to help serve our country daily."

Service members not only help people from other countries. In the United States, when disasters happen the Military is usually the first to respond and the last to leave.



Spc. Tiffany Evans

Above: Air Force Tech. Sgt. Dion Bullock, Air Combat Command ACC, 55th Wing, 376th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, helps to remove burnt skin from Nawab Arahman. Arahman who is three was playing near a gasoline lantern that fell on him and severely burned the left side of his body. **Right:** Bullock draws blood from the arm of Nasrullah. Nasrullah who is 55 came in to the ER complaining of stomach problems.



Spc. Tiffany Evans

Engineers improve FOB runway

By Sgt. Chuck D. Meseke
Editor

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO, Afghanistan- "Sorry, no fixed-wing flights. The runway is closed today."

The disappointing words were heard frequently by Forward Operating Base Salerno

Soldiers as almost daily thunderstorms hammered the dirt runway here often making it impossible to land aircraft.

Soldiers from the 1224th Engineer Detachment, Company B, 864th Engineer Battalion, hope to make the runway more reliable thanks to their recent addition of 680

feet of airfield matting to the touchdown area.

"This project will stabilize the touchdown area of the airfield, increase the ability to land planes and the airfield won't be shut down as often," said Master Sgt. Raymond J. Supan, noncommissioned officer in charge of Task Force Sword at FOB Salerno.

"The biggest challenge in completing this project was coordinating all the moving pieces," Supan said.

The 1224th was responsible for leveling the touchdown area with heavy equipment while Co. B soldiers pieced together the matting with the help of local Afghan workers.

More than 2,500 separate pieces, weighing 140 lbs each, were used to construct the mat.

"This is a huge undertaking," Capt. Ronnie B. Delfin, a Yigo, Guam, native and commander of the 1224th. "We have never done this

before."

The runway improvement mission was the biggest project for the 1224th since arriving in Afghanistan in April and conducting various types of engineer work throughout Regional Command East, Delfin said.

Despite the scope of the project ahead of them, the Soldiers working on the project have been doing great work, Supan said.

"They have been doing a great job. They are looking to complete the job in four days instead of seven," Supan said.

With the project near completion many of the soldiers were happy to be a part of a project that would benefit everyone at FOB Salerno.

"More mail will come in, more of everything will come in, but the most important thing is it will be safer for the pilots and planes coming in," said Spc. Mark A. Palacios, a Chalan Pago, Guam, native and light wheel mechanic with the 1224th.



Sgt. Chuck D. Meseke

Pfc. Chris F. Day, a Gaithersburg, Md., native and carpenter with Company B, 864th Engineer Battalion, helps an Afghan worker lay matting Aug. 29 for the touchdown area of Forward Operating Base Salerno airfield.

Walker memorialized with airfield

By Sgt. Chuck D. Meseke
Editor

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO, Afghanistan- The airfield at Forward Operating Base Salerno, was renamed as 1st Lt. Laura Walker Army Airfield Sept. 1 during a ceremony held at the end of the runway.

Walker was killed in action when the vehicle she was riding in was struck with an improvised explosive device Aug. 18, near Forward Operating Base Tiger, north of Kandahar.

Despite not serving in Regional Command East when she was killed, she was memorialized by the task force that she had made such an impact on since deploying to FOB Salerno in March.

Before moving to Kandahar on July 15, she led her Soldiers of Task Force Sword to completing many projects including the construction of the FOB's northern entrance control point, concrete helipads, numerous underground communications vaults and concrete flooring for a maintenance "clamshell"

structure.

"She was a hard worker, always smiling. You could always count on her to get the job done," said 2nd Lt. Ashshanae Tolbert, a platoon leader with TF Sword. "She was a mentor and a friend."

Walker also wrote many articles for Army publications, showcasing the hard work of her Soldiers. Her battalion commander described her as the best S5 officer he had ever encountered in the Army.

The renaming of the airfield gave those at FOB Salerno a chance to remember Walker through her final project, the recently installed matting to the runway's touchdown area. Although Walker was not present

during the actual project, the training she provided to the Soldiers who were to work on the project allowed them to complete the mission in four days instead of the estimated seven.

"She was the best person to dedicate the airfield to, she did a lot to get the project off the ground," Tolbert said.



Sgt. Chuck D. Meseke

The Forward Operating Base Salerno airfield was officially renamed 1st Lt. Laura M. Walker Army Airfield Sept. 1.

'Price is Wright' visits CTF Devil

By **Spc. Tiffany Evans**

20th Public Affairs
Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO, Afghanistan - "We're here to make folks forget they're deployed by getting them to smile, laugh, and swap stories that we will take home with us and share with others," said Dave Price, weatherman, "The Early Show".

Price one of the celebrities on the Stars for Stripes "Price is Wright" tour, did a stand up comic routine and master of ceremonies for the evening show Sept. 4 here, while his producer John D'Amelio recorded the show.

Before the show started Price and D'Amelio talked to and recorded interviews with members of the Armed Forces for a segment on the tour that should air on CBS in late September, said Price.

"Everyone who is on this tour has been a patriot long before Sept. 11," said Price. "John is a former marine, I've been entertaining the troops when I can since the earlier 90s, Joey Gilbert's father is in the Navy, and Chely Wright has had many relatives in the Armed Forces."

The show began with Price doing a stand up routine, pulling a Soldier on stage to sing, and than rounding up volunteers to box with Gilbert. Gilbert was a participant on the TV show "The Contender" and is a member of the Individual Ready Reserve until 2007.

"I'm here to show my support for the troops and use what celebrity I've gained to spread the word that you're still here and need the support of the American public," said Gilbert. "Also I'm being sponsored by Everlast Worldwide Inc. and they've agreed to ship over whatever boxing supplies I order for the troops here in Afghanistan."

While on the Contender Joey's father was deployed to Afghanistan and helped to



Master Sgt. Geoffrey Carter

Chely Wright and Clay Krasner sing the chorus to "Jezzebel" during their performance in the "Price is Wright" tour Sept. 4, at Forward Operating Base Salerno.

build up FOB Ripley. It was a hard time for the boxer, because his father was usually at every one of his matches, he said.

"I know what it feels like to be separated from your loved one and wishing that you could see them or talk to them more," said Gilbert. "I'm proud of my father and his service."

Gilbert was followed by Price getting the FOB commander Col. Patrick J. Donahue II, to come on stage and sing "Margaritaville" to open up for Wright. Wright, a country music star, has been singing for the troops since she was very young, said Price.

"My grandfather served in the Army in World War II, my father served in the Navy during the Vietnam War, and my brother has been a Marine for the past 15 years," said Wright.

While performing her songs the singer joked around with the troops. Before singing the song "Bumper of My SUV" she told the story of why she wrote the song and the story behind her recording it.

"While my brother was

deployed to Iraq in 2003, he sent me a Marine Corps bumper sticker, which I placed on the bumper of my sport utility vehicle," she said. "Well one day while driving in Nashville a woman drove by me and gave me the middle finger."

After the woman flipped the singer off she motioned for Wright to roll down her window. The woman than told me that she did not support my war, said Wright.

"I was so upset that I drove home and recorded my thoughts and than forgot about the recording," said Wright. "Than in September 2004 I was part of the first group of entertainers to go to Iraq."

On Sept. 19, 2004 the singer performed at FOB Summerall for Soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division. One of the Soldiers Spc. Joshua Henry, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Infantry Division was one of many Soldiers who told her she needed to record "Bumper of My SUV".

"The next day we heard that a Soldier from FOB Summerall

had been killed only hours after we had left," she said. "I prayed that I didn't meet the Soldier, yet I prayed that I had met the Soldier."

When she found out the Soldier killed was Henry, she recorded the song and sent it to AFN Baghdad. A Soldier deployed to Iraq sent a copy of the song home to Florida and from there the song spread, said Wright.

"I decided to record the song in the United States, but I didn't want to make any money off the sales," said the singer. "All profits from the song go to Stars for Stripes so they can send entertainers to visit with the troops."

Watching the men tear up during her performance was the highlight of Wright's night, she said. She was overcome with emotion and could barely finish the song.

"Tonight was great and something out of the ordinary for us," said Army Spc. Daryl Raymond, 69th Transportation Company. "We always hear about the support at home, but now we are seeing the support face to face."

Police

from page 4

country's upcoming provincial elections and in the future. Their training will continue at least until the elections are over, McCarthy explained.

Col. Abdul Aziz Mangal, the commander of all police officers in Tani, said the training was very good for his officers.

"With the training I am actually very optimistic on how the election security will go, this is very good for our officers. I like it," Mangal said.

Other officers hoped that the training would continue past the elections.

"All of this training is important for each police officer to know," said Capt. Rasol Marjan, who commands about 30 officers from Tani.

"We plan to train over these tasks for an hour each morning," Marjan said.

Despite the difficulties in training new officers that speak a different language, McCarthy said his troops are up to the job.

"As MPs we do a lot of different missions. The training is a new one for us and it can get frustrating, but we see the importance of it if we ever want to leave Afghanistan secured," McCarthy said.



Sgt. Chuck D. Meseke

Afghan National Police officers practice handcuffing a detainee during training Sept. 3 at the Tani District police headquarters. The officers were given a refresher course of basic police skills by Combined Task Force Devil military police officers from the 82nd Military Police Company.

Cell

from page 5

identity and linked him to the Taliban. His trail led them to an individual believed to be one of two sub-commanders of a local Taliban network,

Hollingsworth said.

That man was the first to be apprehended this week. After Afghan National Defense Service agents failed to capture him during a night raid on his home, the man fell into their laps the

next day when they randomly spotted him riding his motorcycle. He was detained and brought in for questioning.

"That was one of the luckiest breaks ever," said Hollingsworth.

The man revealed the names of the other members of his cell after questioning.

Based on the man's information, Afghan National Army and Red Falcon paratroopers arrested the brothers of one cell member during a raid in Wardak Aug. 24. Another cell member managed to slip away into the mountains. U.S. Forces were there to provide security and support, but it was the Afghans who made the captures, said paratroopers who were on the scene.

"It was all the ANA. They were trudging up and down the mountains. (Their commander) didn't want to let anyone get away," said Sgt. Justin Ricketts, a section leader with Company D, TF Red Falcon.

With multiple suspects in custody undergoing tactical questioning, battalion intelligence officers are hopeful their information will lead to more arrests in the future. But for now, they consider the Wardak-Logar Taliban cell finished as an effective terrorist network.

"Our assessment is that that cell is neutralized right now," Hollingsworth said.



Spc. Mike Pryor

Paratroopers from B Co, 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, dismount their vehicle to search a suspected enemy safehouse in Wardak.

Up Front & Centered: Pro's are valuable resources

By Master Sgt. Geoffrey Carter
Combined Task Force Devil PAO

Have you ever wondered why car manufacturers put mirrors on the passenger side of cars that give you false readings of objects in them? Why not put a regular mirror like the one on the driver's side? And speaking of false readings, why do leaders seem so disinterested in the human talent they employ?

Roger D'Aprix of the Rochester, N.Y.-based consulting firm D'Aprix & Co. and author of several books on organizational communication may have an answer. He thinks some businesses treat employees like machines. "Leaders seem disinterested in the human talent they employ because they are cold-hearted executives geared only to the bottom line," he reluctantly charges.

Human capital is not as negative as it sounds. In today's economy workers are a means of doing business.

D'Aprix goes on to ask us: "What happens when the best trial lawyer in a law firm leaves to begin his own practice? What happens when a person as talented and far sighted as a Jack Welch retires from General Electric? Those are tremendous economic losses to the organization in question and small examples of the fact that money,

machinery and buildings do not give anyone today an overriding competitive advantage."

I would caveat that with, "What happens when the executive level ignores or does not support good managers and supervisors?" The obvious response would be an exodus of institutional knowledge and talent. That also applies to Senior Non-Commissioned Officers and Commissioned Officers in the military.

A good example of leadership growth was the return of WWII GIs to the workforce. They learned and perfected the techniques of command and control leadership with an emphasis on the chain of command. Their training convinced most of them that the way to lead any effort was to give orders and expect them to be obeyed.

Today those leadership styles and office environments are being replaced with service jobs where professionals are in high demand. Work place environments have exercise rooms, game rooms, and even day-care facilities to entice those professionals to stay in the organization.

Leaders today need to adapt to the new work force and understand that workers are the most critical part of any organization's capital resources. Many workers today are highly-talented, self-motivated and very marketable human resources to competing

agencies seeking skilled professionals.

It costs an organization more to hire and retrain new employees than it does to take care of their current human resources. So the secret is to treat your employees as human beings and not machines, and that solution is not always money. Research has shown that of the five major reasons for job satisfaction money is rated number five and sometimes further down the list.

What is number one? Recognition and respect tops some lists followed by benefits. The military has always been ahead of many business organizations when it comes to priorities. One way to understand recognition in the military is to just look down at all those ribbons on your chest.

To understand respect in the military just read the soldier's Army values card or the value chip on your dog tags and you will see that respect is one of our core values.

To understand benefits just look at your Leave and Earnings Statement or your military medical benefits or the food and lodging supplied by the military.

I think you're getting the picture. What you, as a leader, need to take a serious look at is what you are doing to motivate and support the military's most valuable human resource, its soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines.

Sweep

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nated effort in which the local police lock-up suspected businesses the night before we all come in. The fact that we found this IED making equipment is an awesome bonus."

Sayed Rahim, a squad leader from 3 Co., 24th Kandak, helped to lead his troops and the U.S. Army soldiers through the bazaar, which winds its way through old Soviet block style buildings and new construction built with money generated from the improving economy.

"The people were happy to let us into their shops," said Rahim. "The people of Afghanistan were treated very badly in the past by the Taliban and the Russians, and they know that the ANA won't abuse them."

"By doing this search, the people, the coalition, and the ANA will be safe," Rahim continued. "If we didn't do this, the ACMs would come

back and no one would be safe. The Taliban and others in the past came here to ruin Afghanistan, we will never again let them do that."

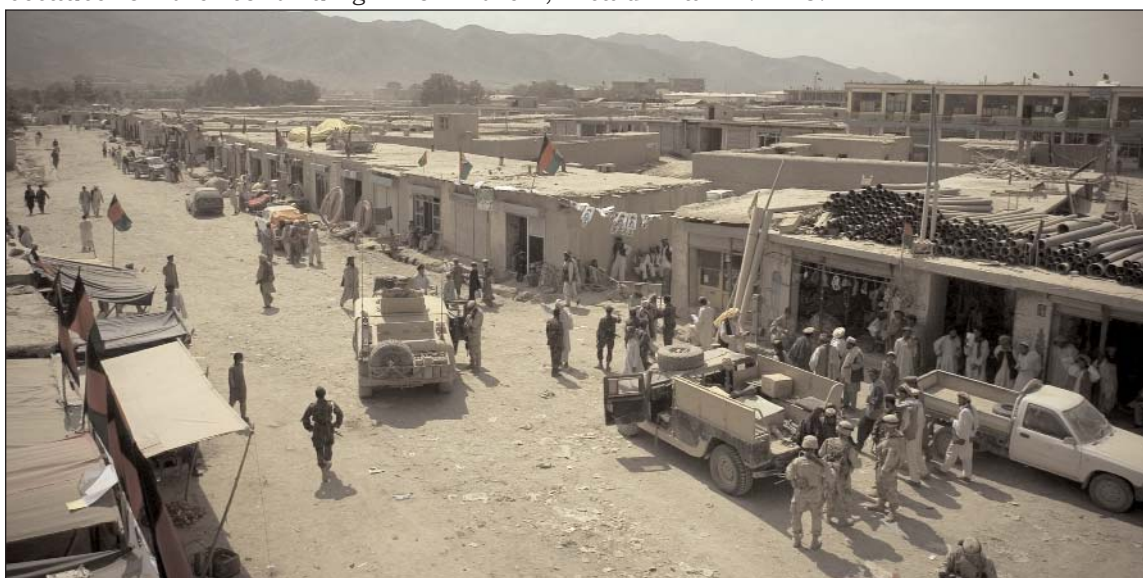
Getting a foothold in Afghanistan is becoming harder and harder for ACMs because of the continuing

efforts of the ANA, ANP and Coalition forces. They have been relegated to meeting in the mountains instead of finding shelter in homes.

"The ACMs can't come down out of the mountains because it is just not safe from them," said Rahim.

"This is good for us and will be good for the elections."

Operation Orgun Sweep III is one of many operations going on in the Paktika Province leading up to the elections, which will take place nationwide on Sept. 18.



Afghan National Army Soldiers from Company 3, 24th Kandak, along with Soldiers from Company A, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 508th Infantry Regiment, did a complete sweep of the Orgun, Afghanistan bazaar Sept. 7 as part of Operation Orgun Sweep III.

Spc. Laura E. Griffin